

a child and trying to race death that is certain to come from Lou Gehrig's disease.

We have all had people in our office trembling from Parkinson's. We have all had people in our office tell us the tragic stories of their parents with Alzheimer's. We have all had people come to visit us in wheelchairs, quadriplegics, paraplegics, with life-ending, life-destroying spinal injuries. We work on people who have suffered from head injuries, never to regain their normal function, and people in coma.

We have all heard these stories. What do we do? We do the best thing we can think of. We say, let us double the funding for the National Institutes of Health. Let us spend billions of dollars to save these people, to save future generations from the scourge of premature death, disability, torturous pain.

What is the research that we think is going to be done to find these miracle cures? Mr. Speaker, it is somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Let us look at this diagram. What the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) did not say in his explanation of the diagram is that when we take the skin cell, the somatic cell, and put it in the nucleus of the denucleated or enucleated cell and allow it to divide for 5 to 7 days, when we get to this point, when we get to the point where we have that cell division, we stop the process of cell division and extract from that blastocyst pluripotent stem cells.

When we have those stem cells, the scientists do research where they look at the proteins and the growth factors at work; and they say, what made that skin cell from someone's cheek become a stem cell, a magical stem cell that can become anything? And then, what miraculous proteins and processes can convert that pluripotent stem cell into a specialized spine cell or brain cell or liver cell?

When they unlock that secret through this research, what they will be able to do to our constituents is that little child with diabetes will be able to have some of its skin cells taken, turned in with these proteins, no more eggs, no more embryonic work at all, take her somatic cell, convert it into a stem cell, and convert it into the islets for her liver, convert it into the cells that will cure and repair her spine, convert it into the cells that wake a comatose patient back into consciousness. That is what this research holds for us.

Now, why would we kill this research? Why would we condemn for the world and for future generations not to have the benefit of this miracle? We would do it because some will say, but wait a minute, once we put the cheek cell of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) into this empty cell and it divides, we have a soul. That is the metaphysical question here, do we have a soul there?

Mr. Speaker, I would be mightily surprised if we took my cheek cell and put it in a petri dish and it divided, that God would choose that moment to put a soul on it, and say, Mr. GREENWOOD's cheek cell is dividing; quick, give it a soul. It has to have a soul. Then we can hold hands and circle it and say, It must now become a human being. Mr. GREENWOOD's cheek cell is dividing. It has a soul. It has to live.

That is ridiculous. It is ridiculous. It does not say that in the New Testament. What the New Testament says is love; and with this therapy, we make the love a reality.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is worth reading the bill that is before us today. If we do read the bill, as I have and the other members of the Committee on the Judiciary, we will see that the bill outlaws somatic cell nuclear transfer. It makes it a felony with a 10-year sentence.

If we read further in the bill, there is a ban and also a felony remedy for those who ship or receive any products that are derived from somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Now, what does this mean? This means that scientists in labs around the country who are doing research and who may have cultures of cells that are products of somatic cell nuclear transfer will soon become felons in their labs if they ship or send these cells to colleagues in the scientific world.

Further, under the bill, it is illegal, it is a crime, to accept a cure that is developed outside the United States if a cure for a disease is the product of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Now, that is a very realistic possibility. Just last month, this month, the head of stem cell research at the University of California in San Francisco announced that he was leaving the United States because he could not do his research in the United States. He is moving to England. When he joins other scientists in England, there is quite a good chance that they will come up with cures for horrible diseases that are suffered throughout the world, including America.

If we pass this bill, we are saying Americans are not allowed to get those cures. That, too, would become a crime.

The National Institutes of Health mentioned in their recent report that the human ES-derived cells could be advantageous for transplantation purposes if they did not trigger an immune rejection. They also point out in the next paragraph that "potential immunological rejection of human ES-derived cells might be avoided for by using nuclear transfer technology to generate these cells."

I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule. It is preposterous that we are

allowing ourselves 2 hours of debate to decide whether we should call to a screeching halt research that has the promise of curing cancer, of allowing those who have suffered spinal cord injuries to recover, allowing Alzheimer's victims to recover, allowing Parkinson's victims to recover.

We should reject this bill. We all agree that cloning of human beings is something we ought to outlaw. Let us not outlaw research along with that.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

(Mr. TAUZIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, let me first say that I think we are all in agreement that cloning to reproduce human beings ought to be illegal, and the FDA does not have authority in my view to make it legal today. All they have is authority to say it is a safe process or not, and that is the last authority they have on the subject. We need to make cloning of human beings illegal.

The tougher question is one the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) poses: Should we have therapeutic cloning for research purposes to get stem cells?

If that were the only place to get stem cells, if that were the only way in which to learn these incredible cures and these incredible possibilities for replacing human organs and curing diabetes, that would be a pretty tough debate for us today. But we are not in that position.

I commend Members to an article in Discover Magazine that has just come out this month about four remarkable brothers, the Vacanti brothers. In the article, they talk about amazing breakthroughs not in stem cell research but in research that has discovered some 3-micron, very small, cells in every mammalian species, including human beings.

They have experimented with these cells. They have tried to freeze them; they have tried to cook them. They have frozen them at minus 21 degrees. They have left them at 187 degrees for 30 minutes. They have starved them of oxygen. They have lived and replicated. They have used them now in experiments going as far as rebuilding the spinal cords of lab rats, and in months these lab rats are walking again.

This is without stem cell research. This is without embryonic stem cell research. This is without therapeutic cloning.

What this article says is there are amazing breakthroughs in the tissues, the cells of our human bodies, without us going as far as some would have us go in playing with the recreation of human life just to take cells for research purposes. We do not have to go